PROCUREMENT UPDATE

In March, HEI proposed buying direct to the contract 29 WPS/DDS compatible computer workstations. This would bring all required contract personnel into the WPS system and allow the contractor to vacate the CEO/DG node thereby providing S&MA a considerable cost savings ($55,000 per node). This is being pursued as an MSFC buy. Once received, the procurement will provide 100% WPS access and at least 92% WPS hardware access for contract employees.

HEI also proposed buying direct to the contract a Windows NT server to replace an extremely slow, out of date Novell server (133 MHz vs. 20 MHz) and to negate updating backup Novell server (33 MHz). This effort was worked with the ISSO and CSC as well as S&MA and the Procurement Office. S&MA will provide partial funding and ISSO will purchase a full-up Windows NT server to support S&MA. This will allow us to surplus the Novell servers or apply them to another task. An interim server will be used to provide access to existing Novell-based databases and applications, and to mitigate communication problems.

JUST WHEN YOU BECAME FAMILIAR WITH WPS...

While many of you are waiting patiently to receive WPS access, MSFC is busy switching to the Distributed Desktop System (DDS). When the new WPS/DDS compatible PCs arrive, 25 HEI/RSSC personnel will be phased into DDS from WPS. DDS will provide all the capabilities of WPS. Although it is true that when on DDS a user is not able to access a Novell server, CSC is committed to maintaining "migration" servers, which will provide access to Novell-based data, as long as there are WPS users. The goal for an e-mail package on DDS is to use an SMTP product in order to eliminate gateways for translations. E-mail currently costs $205k yearly and requires 17 support personnel. NASA has purchased an Agencywide license for Eudora Pro. PC-based users will have the option of remaining on Eudora for e-mail or switching to MS Exchange once it becomes available. The beta Mac version of MS Exchange is now being tested here at MSFC. DDS will also change to DHCP (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol), which means that machines will no longer have permanent IP addresses. When a user logs onto the net, the user name will be registered and provided a temporary address. The function will also support permanent addressing as required. DDS has the following six objectives:

1. Fewer Servers (down to 20 Windows NT servers from 50 Novell for WPS)
2. TCPIP only
3. Commercial Off-The-Shelf products only
4. Improved Security (C2 Level) which means: 1) pass through authentication; 2) user has control of his resources--administrators can only look at irregular events; and 3) no clear text passed across network.
5. Integration (NT facilitates sharable resources)
6. Remote Access (NT has RAS--Remote Access Facility built-in)

REQUEST FORM SUMMARY	
TO DATE	
262	Total Requests Submitted
239	Requests Closed

IPS NODE SHUTDOWN REMINDER

Just a reminder that the IPS node of the Data General is scheduled for shutdown on May 10, 1996. WPS users who also have an IPS account are urged to transfer any necessary files to WPS. Please contact Teresa (4-4416) if you need instructions regarding file transfer or if your account is ready to be deleted. Each node that can be shut down will save MSFC $55,000 per year. HEI has committed to 100% discontinuation of DG node accounts upon receipt of the 25 expected WPS accounts.

CROSS-PLATFORM VIRUS

The Microsoft Word "macro virus" that has popped up from time to time here at MSFC (and yes even within HEI / RSSC), does not discriminate between Windows and Macintosh. As reported in the January 1996 issue of *MacUser* magazine, Microsoft "...created such good cross-platform templates that hackers had no trouble creating a virus that could jump the OS boundary.". Fortunately, this virus does not appear to be particularly malicious and the remedy is close at hand. The following procedure applies to both Windows and Mac WPS users:

To install the WORD MACRO VIRUS UTILITY:
1. First open Word, choose Tools, choose Options. Go to File Locations, hi-lite UserTemplate. You must be able to write to the directory indicated. Any drive where you normally save files, such as C:\WORD\template or H:\WORD\template, will work. You will have to create these directories in File Manager if they do not already exist. Modify UserTemplate to reflect the drive and directory. Close Word.
2. From the WPS Main Panel, select EDITOR. Select UTILITIES.
3. Scroll down the left side and double click on WORD MACRO VIRUS UTILITY.
4. Select MAIN PANEL, launch as a Window or Icon (Window will cause a word macro utility window to open when the icon is selected, Icon will open an icon at the bottom of your screen when the icon is selected). Select O.K.
5. Exit WPS PROFILE EDITOR. The icon should be on your main panel.

To run the WORD MACRO VIRUS UTILITY:
1. Make sure that WORD is not open.
2. Double click on the Word Macro Virus Utility icon.
3. Follow the instructions. Normal.dot should be saved.
4. If you have problems, call E.Hill @ 4-7719.
5. You will be given the choice of drives and directories to scan. The utility will scan for *.doc and *.dot files.
6. A log file is created to show the results if a virus is detected.

7. Within the virus utility window, you can go to tools, macros, and see the macros that are set up on your machine. An example is CleanAll, which gives you a menu to choose directories to scan and clean.

The utility will scan for *.doc and *.dot files. As long as the utility is loaded in this manner, documents will be automatically scanned as they are opened. If you are giving a word document to someone else and can name it with the .doc extension, it will be automatically scanned if they have the utility loaded. If you receive a Word document that is named with a different extension, you can still scan the document for the virus. You must go into Word and use File Open to open the file you are concerned with. If the file is infected, you will get a screen with warnings of macros that could change Word, etc. That means that the file has been infected, so check O.K. and go on. It will clean the file.

For those contract employees who are not WPS users, assume your machine is not infected. However, if you experience a dialog box in Word that is empty except for the number one, the IM group can coordinate with CSC to execute the Word Macro Virus utility on your machine.

The Word Macro Virus utility will identify existing infected documents as well as offer some protection against future infection. If the utility identifies infected files, please make an effort to contact the person who gave you each file to make them aware of the infection. Also, contact anyone to whom you provided infected files.

The transmission of infected Word documents is most likely to occur by infected Word documents as attachments to cc:Mail messages. Other ways of spreading the infection is by floppy disk or shared group areas on file servers.

Just remember that an infection by the Word Macro Virus, while highly contagious, is rarely fatal. At most, it is annoying and recovery may be time-consuming.

PC WPS PRINT CAPABILITY

The IM group has recently coordinated with CSC to add the four MSFC_SMA2 printers scattered though our work areas to the "WPS Print Manager". In addition to the WPS printers located in rooms 2208 (computer lab) and 2310 (space station area), you may now select the following printers:

4203_2136 (near Kim Carmean)
4203_2215 (near Harry Dean)
4203_2219 (near Karen Long)
4203_2243 (near Susan Bedford)

To change WPS printers, use the WPS Print Manager found on your WPS Utilities panel. If the WPS Print Manager does not appear on your Utilities panel, you may add it with the "WPS Profile Editor". Request help from the IM group if you have trouble with any of these procedures.

MAC WPS PRINTING

Macintosh WPS users must print to PostScript compatible printers. The four MSFC_SMA2 printers that are now available to PC WPS users do not support Post Script printing. Currently, only two networked Post Script-supporting printers are available to contract personnel. They are:

-- the QMS 825 in room 2208 (computer lab)
-- the DEC Print Server 40 Plus in room 2316   (copier room)

To change WPS printers, Mac WPS users should utilize the Mac Chooser ("WPS Print Manager" is for Windows WPS only.).

To select the QMS 825, in the Chooser, select "Appletalk Zones", then "MSFC 4203 2nd floor". Look for the entry "4203-2208-QMS825-PS".

To select the DEC Print Server, in the Chooser, select "Appletalk Zones", then "MSFC Novell Servers". Look for the entry "4203-2316-LPS40-PS".

You may find the QMS printer in room 2208 to be more reliable. If you have any difficulty with these procedures, feel free to contact the IM group for assistance.

REMINDER

Mr. Ehl recently authorized the issuance of a memo to all S&MA personnel regarding use of the Internet. Personnel were reminded that the Internet records your user number making it possible to identify the individual accessing any non-work-related page. He stated that MSFC will monitor Internet use to identify illegal use of the resource. This is the LAST WARNING Mr. Ehl intends to give. Personnel are reminded that misuse of government resources will result in the application of extreme consequences, including immediate dismissal.

All contract personnel are reminded that government resources are only to be used for tasks directly related to fulfilling assigned duties. Employees are prohibited from using equipment for personal use, including playing games or surfing the Internet. All resources, even floppy disks, are subject to audit.

HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Information Management installed the Emerald back-up system on the 486 in the computer lab and configured the Emerald Peer-to Peer software. The system will enable performance of PC backups over the LANs. 36 PC Workstations have been configured to publish their hard drives on the network. Oracle 7/Developer 2000 was also installed on a contract PC. The development software is being evaluated for potential use in the PRACA rehost effort.

- All contract personnel with an e-mail account have been added to the x.500 gateway. Inclusion on the gateway provides mail capability from outside of MSFC. A list of addresses will be published separately. If you have a problem receiving mail, contact an IM representative.

hint: When printing a Word document from ccMail, you may need to launch Word. Printing directly from ccMail often results in formatting errors.